

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. **Claims 1 and 8** are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding **claim 1**, the best prior art found during the examination of the present, the admitted prior art (**U.S. Patent Application Publication #2004/0085966 A1**), in view of **Xu et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication #2002/0114333 A1)**, and further view of **Matsumaru (U.S. Patent Application Publication #2002/0097676 A1)**, fail to disclose "*said table stores the information about the relay, such as to relay said received packets when said source address extracted from said received packet designates another transmitter and the other transmitter designated by said source address is located on a path connected to the transmission path port corresponding to the receiving port identifier extracted by said receiving port extracting part, and the information about the relay such as not to relay said received packet when said source address extracted from said received packet designates the transmitter or the other transmitter designated by said source address is located on another path other than the path connected to the transmission path port corresponding to the receiving port identifier extracted by said receiving port extracting part, said judging part judges to relay or not to relay said received packet part according to the information about the relay stored in said table.*"

**Claims 3-5** are also allowed by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Regarding **claim 8**, the best prior art found during the examination of the present, **Xu et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication #2002/0114333 A1)** in view of **Gardell et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,298,062 B1)** and further in view of **Matsumaru (U.S. Patent Application Publication #2002/0097676 A1)**, fail to disclose "*said table stores the information about the relay, such as to relay said received packets when said source address extracted from said received packet designates another transmitter and the other transmitter designated by said source address is located on a path connected to a transmission path port corresponding to an extracted receiving port identifier, and the information about the relay such as not to relay said received packet when said source address extracted from said received packet designates the transmitter or the other transmitter designated by said source address is located on another path other than the path connected to the transmission path port corresponding to the extracted receiving port identifier,*

*said judgment step judging to relay or not to relay said received packet according to the information about the relay stored in said table."*

### **Conclusion**

2. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Hand-delivered responses** should be brought to

Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building

401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or early communications from the Examiner should be directed to Salvador E. Rivas whose telephone number is (571) 270-1784. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00AM to 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Chirag G. Shah can be reached on (571) 272- 3144. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

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*Salvador E. Rivas*

S.E.R./ser

December 16, 2009

/Gregory B Sefcheck/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2477

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